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LAW OF ILLINOIS.

(BY REQUEST.)

AN ACT for the establishment of Medical Societies.

Sec. 1. *Be it enacted by the people of the state of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly,* That this state shall be divided into four medical districts, in each of which there shall be held a board of physicians. The counties of Bond, Madison, Washington, St. Clair, and Monroe, shall form the first district; and it shall be the duty of each and every practising physician of said district to meet at the town of Belleville on the second Monday of May next. The counties of Franklin, Alexander, Johnson, Union, Jackson, and Randolph, shall form the second district; and shall meet at Brownsville on the same day. The counties of Pope, Gallatin, White, and Jefferson, shall form the third district, to meet at Shawneetown the same day. The counties of Edwards, Crawford, Wayne, and Clark, to form the fourth district, and to meet at Palmyra the day above mentioned; and being so convened as aforesaid, or any of them, being not less than five in number, shall proceed to the choice of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall hold their offices for one year, and until others are chosen in their places.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted,* That whenever any of said societies shall be organized as aforesaid, they are hereby declared to be bodies politic and corporate, in fact and in name, by the names of the Medical Society of the district where such society shall be respectively formed; and by that name shall in law be capable of suing and being sued, pleading, and being impleaded, answering and being answered unto, in all matters and causes whatsoever; and shall and may have a common seal, and may alter and renew the same at pleasure; and the said medical societies shall and may agree upon the times and places of their next meeting.

Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted,* That said society, when formed as aforesaid, shall have power to examine all students who may make application for that purpose, and grant diplomas under the hand and seal of the president, before such student may be examined. *Provided,* That nothing in this act shall be so construed to prevent any person coming from any other place from practising in this state, such person producing to either of said societies a diploma from any respectable university of the United States or any other country; and the person receiving such diploma shall, upon the receipt of the same, pay to the treasurer of said society the sum of ten dollars for the use of said society.

Sec. 4. *Be it further enacted,* That from and after the organization of the said medical societies, no person not having a diploma or previously practising in the state, shall commence the practice of physic and surgery in either of the aforesaid districts, until he shall have passed an examination as hereinafter described: and if any person shall so practise previous to having obtained a diploma, he shall thereafter be disqualified from collecting any debt or debts incurred by such practice, in any court or before any magistrate in this state.

Sec. 5. *Be it further enacted,* That the aforesaid medical societies shall, at each annual meeting, appoint a committee of five of their members, whose duty it shall be, or any two of them, at all times to examine such students as may make application for that purpose, and shall grant to said student a certificate, if qualified, which shall be sufficient to empower him to practise until the next meeting of said society; whereupon, by producing said certificate, the president shall grant a diploma agreeably to the rules and regulations of said society.

Sec. 6. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall and may be lawful for the medical societies established by this act to purchase and hold any estate real or personal for the use of the societies respectively.

Sec. 7. *Be it further enacted,* That the societies established by this act shall be empowered to make such by-laws,

rules and regulations relative to the affairs and property of said societies as they, or a majority of their members, shall deem most proper and correct. *Provided,* That the by-laws, rules, and regulations, be not contrary to, or inconsistent with, the constitution of this state or of the United States.

Sec. 8. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of every physician residing within the bounds of either of the aforesaid districts, to keep a true and accurate record of all the births, deaths, and diseases, which may take place within the vicinity of his practice, which record, or a copy of the same, he shall transmit to the president of the society of which he is a member, at least once in three months, and which list or record shall be by the president published in one or more of the newspapers of this state; and any physician refusing or failing to make out the aforesaid list or record, and transmitting the same as aforesaid, shall pay to such society as he may belong the sum of ten dollars for the use of said society.

Sec. 9. *Be it further enacted,* That if any physician residing in this state at the passage of this act, shall refuse to attend on the second Monday of May next, or any other of the stated meetings of said societies, he shall pay to the treasurer of the society of which he is a member, the sum of five dollars; unless a good and sufficient excuse shall be presented at the next meeting of said society.

Sec. 10. *Be it further enacted,* That the board of physicians may examine medical bills which may be by the patient considered exorbitant, and make such deductions as may to them seem reasonable; and when such deduction is made it shall be obligatory on the physician making the same to return such part of the surplus as may be unreasonably made, which may be recovered before any justice of the peace or court of law, with costs.

Sec. 11. *Be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of each society to deputize one of its members as a member of a general or state society, which shall be holden each year at the seat of government and organized in the same manner as the district societies first before named.

This act to be in force from its passage.

MICHIGAN AND ILLINOIS CANAL.

Report of Messrs. Phillips and Graham, commissioners, to the secretary of war.

[FROM THE ST. LOUIS ENQUIRER.]

SIR—In addition to the notes of Mr. Sullivan, the surveyor, which describe the face of the country over which the lines were run, we beg leave to suggest some views which occurred to us on the subject of communication between the river Illinois and the Michigan lake.

By reference to the map herewith forwarded, it will be seen that the little river *Plein* coming from the north-west approaches within ten miles and a quarter of lake Michigan, and then bending to the south-west unites with the *Theekiki* at the distance of about fifty miles, and forms the river Illinois. The country between the lake and the *Plein* at this point of approach is a prairie (natural meadow) without trees, covered with grass, and to the eye a perfect level. From the bank of the *Plein*, standing on the ground, the trees are distinctly seen with the naked eye at Fort Dearborn, on the shore of the lake: from Fort Dearborn they are in like manner seen on the bank of the *Plein*. Standing on any intermediate point between the lake and the river, and the judgment is at a loss to say to which side the ground declines; and whether the level of the *Plein* or the lake is the highest. It was however determined from certain data that the level of the river was two feet, or thereabouts, above the level of the lake. From this view it would seem that the cutting of a canal in this place between the *Plein* and the lake would be a work of neither skill, difficulty, or expense. Small however, as the labor would be under this view, it is still diminished upon a closer examination; and by finding that an arm of the lake called *Chicago* puts out in the direction of the *Plein*, and that an arm of the *Plein* also called *Chicago*, puts out in the direction of the lake. They approach within two miles of each other; so that in common water there is only dry ground to that extent between them.—The character of their two arms is essentially different; that of the lake being about 60 feet wide and from 10 to 4 feet deep; that of the river being in high water from 4 to 6 feet deep and in places a mile wide; and in low water either dry or reduced to a gutter. Between the head of these two arms is also a gutter which is dry in the dry season of summer and fall; and full of water in the spring; and when thus filled with water, the boats of six or eight tons engaged in the Mackinaw and Mississippi trade run through, backwards and forwards, so as to make no portage between Mackinaw and the Mississippi; this gutter forming from the appearance of others now forming, was at first a path

worn out by the feet of those who carried things across the portage, and afterwards deepened by the attrition of the water until formed into a little canal, and its direction depends upon the course of the wind; objects have been seen to float out of it from the same point to the river and to the lake. It is incontestably true that an east wind will drive the water of the lake through this gutter into the *Plein*, and that water from lake Michigan has been discharged by this outlet into the Mississippi, and thence into the gulf of Mexico. It is equally incontestable that the waters of the *Plein* have been driven by the same channel into the lake; and that these phenomena may now be witnessed at any time when the waters are high and the winds blow hard. It follows therefore, that to finish the canal begun by nature in this place, would require, as we have already said, but little skill, time or expense. On opening the canal however, two difficulties would be experienced. 1. The *Plein* would be found to be above the level of the canal; its waters of course would be diverted from its natural channel, and pass by the canal into the lake. 2. Supposing, that evil remedied by a lock to lift vessels into the *Plein*, yet the *Plein* during half the year does not contain water enough to float a boat and so would not become useful as a national highway. To remedy this defect of nature in the *Plein* two projects subject themselves. 1. To sink the bed of the *Plein* below the level of the canal, and thus increase the depth of the *Plein* as well by feeding it out of the lake as by collecting its waters into a narrower channel. 2. To make the canal unite with the *Plein* lower down in its course; a few miles lower would be sufficient to give the water of the lake a descent into the river, as the *Plein* has a sensible descent in this place; in so much that the people of *Chicago* call it "the Rapids," having no other word to distinguish moving water from that which stands still.

Of the *Plein* below its point of approach to the lake we would remark that it has hardly the attributes of a river, being in most places without current and without banks, lying as a sheet of water in the prairie sometimes a mile wide, and so shallow that the tall grass appears almost every where above its surface.

Having said thus much of the facility of communications by the *Chicago*, we would now observe that several other routes are perfectly practicable. 1. From a point in the lake south of *Chicago*, to enter the *Plein* below mount *Jublet*, at or near what is called lake *du Page*, but which is only a dilation of the waters of the *Plein*. This route would lay over level prairie through a multitude of small lakes or ponds which have neither name nor place in any map. 2. By a canal leaving the lake near its south end and uniting with the *Theekiki*, just above its confluence with the *Plein*. Both of these canals would be fed from the lake, would require few or no locks, would go over ground of the same soil, would be 50 or 60 miles long, and would join the waters of the Illinois at points from which it is constantly navigable.—A third route was spoken of, but not seen by us. It would lie between the *Theekiki* and the St. Joseph of the lake. Information says that it has been practised by French traders.

You will perceive sir, that we have not spoken of the nature of the soil through which these several routes would pass. Not being our business to search for and report upon the practicability of water communication, our observations were limited to what fell under the eye while engaged in another duty. And in making this report to you it is our object to excite inquiry, not to furnish plans of practical projects. We shall therefore only say, on this point, that the country in general and the bed of the *Plein*, exhibited much loose stone, pebble, and firm ground.

To conclude, the route by the *Chicago*, as followed by the French since the discovery of the Illinois, presents at one season of the year an uninterrupted water communication for boats of six or eight tons between the Mississippi and the Michigan lake, at another season, a portage of two miles; at another, a portage of seven miles, from the bend of the *Plein* to the arm of the lake, at another a portage of fifty miles, from the mouth of the *Plein* to the lake; over which there is a well beaten wagon road, and boats, and their loads are hauled by oxen and vehicles kept for that purpose by the French settlers at the *Chicago*.

With respect, &c.

JOSEPH PHILLIPS,
RICHARD GRAHAM.

Hon. J. C. CALHOUN,
Secretary at War, Washington City.

Policy of restricting slavery.—The late decision of congress, in rejecting the admission of Missouri into the union, as a slave holding state, has called forth from various public writers an expression of sentiment highly honorable to the national character, and peculiarly flattering to the progress of liberal opinions on this interesting question.

The curse imposed on us, by Britain, in the introduction of slavery, we hope may be at least limited; and that the errors of our progenitors may be atoned for, in a manner least injurious to individual interest and private rights. What is said on this subject in the following article from the Boston Yankee, is well worth the candid consideration of every citizen who values our moral and political reputation, beyond the sordid gain wrung from the hands of a domestic slave.—*City of Washington Gazette.*

FROM THE BOSTON YANKEE.

Amidst the abundance of blessings that Heaven has so profusely poured upon this favored soil, the joy of the patriot is checked by a single cause of regret and anxiety. The basis of republican institutions is the personal liberty and intelligence of the citizens; and while the former is secured to us by a permanent constitution, the spirit of the age has made every provision for the latter, by the multiplication of seminaries of instruction. The great mass of the people of the United States can hardly fail to be enlightened: in our growing settlements, large portions of an improving soil are set apart as permanent funds of instruction; and the learning of one age manifests itself by increasing the facilities for another. The delight which such reflections scarcely fail to awaken in a patriotic bosom, is damped by the reflection that one portion of the people is doomed to interminable and inveterate ignorance. Our system of slavery grows with the vital growth of the republic. A foreign scion ingrafted in our infant stock, it grows with its mother plant, for the richest soil which gives luxuriance to the one, furnishes the other with equal nourishment. In the slave states, the increase of population is derived alike from the progeny of the servant and the master. The most luxuriant fancy cannot delight itself in anticipating the brilliant destinies of the one, without the painful contrast of beholding the increasing miseries of the other. Whether the proportion of slaves will lessen or increase, we do not undertake to decide, though it might be feared, that as they constitute property, they will multiply rather in comparison with the wealth than with the population of a state.

Whatever might have been the sentiments of our first settlers, we believe it was an opinion very generally adopted, that the existence of slavery in a state is an evil of the first magnitude.—Among slave-holders themselves, we have in many instances found this sentiment prevailing, and expressed with a deep and earnest solicitude. They have considered the existence of slavery as an evil deeply to be regretted in the first instance, and in the second, if not eradicated, at least to be limited and curtailed by every possible expedient. One of the remedies proposed is to liberate the children of slaves after the attainment of a certain age; and in the next place, to provide a colony for the free blacks, where they may form themselves into a separate and independent nation. We have always understood both these projects to be more earnestly desired in the southern than in the northern states: our feelings on the subject being more actuated by sympathy and by the abstract perfection of our republican institutions, than any immediate participation in the danger from the evil. Partial and protracted as this remedy must be, we have nevertheless viewed it with great satisfaction, as tending gradually to diminish the comparative strength of this miserable class of people, and to enable the healthy branches of the republic to outstrip it in their growth. The society formed throughout the United States for this object, and composed of the most respectable names in every quarter, was perceived with much pleasure, and this was increased by the prospect of their finding no formidable obstacles to the prosecution of their design. A situation on the coast of Africa was thought to be within the reach of the society, and we believe the report of the exploring agents, sent for that special object, has given new confidence to that opinion. Though many of our best states had slavery incorporated into their vital institutions, yet the evil in the union was only partial in its operations, and while the system was going on to lessen the magnitude of that evil, a firm determination was supposed every where to prevail in fixing limits to any further extension. It was in this spirit that a resolution was offered at the last session of congress, on the application of one or two territories to be admitted as states of the confederation, to prohibit the existence of slavery in these states. This resolution gave rise to as much animated discussion, and perhaps called forth more angry and vindictive remarks, than any question since the adoption of the federal constitution. It met with an opposition we were not prepared to expect, and as yet remain ignorant of those interests or feelings which gave rise to it. It promises to become a question of immense magnitude in the future government of the nation, and either to test the

strength of our political union, or else to remove every barrier to the unlimited extension of this debasing class of society. We pretend not, at this time, to anticipate the result of it, but we cannot suppress the deep solicitude we feel to see every portion of the American population agree in putting limits to an evil big with such future mischief to the country.

There can be little doubt, we think, that the slave population will extend in proportion to the limits of the territory in which it is tolerated. The adjacent wilderness will soon become peopled, and is there really a question among any portion of the American people, whether the public interest would not be promoted in having the whole population of such new states free, rather than having a part in bondage? If it were a question of interest alone, we believe public opinion even in the slave states would answer the question at once, and decidedly in favor of liberty. But is there no other consideration than one of mere policy? Is principle, is a regard to the character of our political institutions, nothing? We have always viewed with a favorable eye the proceedings of the southern states in regard to their slaves. As the evil has been so firmly grafted on their political systems, we conscientiously believe them unable to remove it. A general emancipation of their blacks would be no less an evil to themselves than to their owners. It would give rise to a state of things which would endanger the order and almost the existence of society. Even principle and a close regard to the dictates of duty, require them to be cautious in the work of emancipation. But when the restriction is equally politic and practicable, we think the principles of religion, of political liberty and moral honesty, alike forbid in the most imperative terms any reluctance to adopt it. To admit slavery into the new states is only to augment in the same proportion our whole slave population—to engraft an inveterate and dangerous disease on the vital growth of their own prosperity. Can the restriction be made without hazard to the present slave-holders? Where is the individual who will feel his danger from such a cause augmented? Will his own slaves be kept more submissive by a knowledge that there is in a neighboring state, not a free population determined to preserve subordination to the laws, but a mixed population, one part of which is rendered ever watchful and insecure from the alarm excited by the other? Is such a restriction an act of injustice to the present slave-holders? What use of their property is denied, what tenure of its security is removed? Every thing guaranteed by the letter of the constitution, every thing deemed sacred by its spirit, is preserved inviolate.

What would be taken from them but a chance of obtaining a greater price, by augmenting the competition for their purchase—by extending the sphere of their sale? Is so tremendous an evil to be engrafted on this great and happy nation, an evil which wars with the authority of the Deity, and the fundamental principles of our government, merely to give new profits to the speculator in human flesh? Will they complain because a new market is not opened to their unhallowed enterprise? As well might they complain that the government of France or England do not suffer them to extend the sphere of their traffic to the markets of Paris or London.

The subject we deem of more real importance to the nation than any which has been discussed since the adoption of the constitution. It is intimately blended with the liberty and durability of the republic. Like Mr. Fuller, we think so far as slavery is tolerated here, there is a departure from our republican system. God forbid that the vested rights of slave-holding states should be infringed upon, but we think every real friend to American liberty is called upon to forbid the extension of the system. Never may it become a question of local difference. We know indeed the northern states are profoundly averse to any increase of the evil, but it is not from this quarter we hope and expect the greatest opposition to it. It is from the foresight, the patriotism, the deep and consistent attachment to liberty in all its forms and modifications, which we have often seen evinced by our southern brethren, that we expect the most zealous and magnanimous efforts to limit the evil most interesting to themselves.

INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT.

JEFFERSONVILLE OHIO CANAL.

Monday, the 3d of May, 1819, was a splendid day for the citizens inhabiting the banks of the Ohio and its tributary streams above the falls.—On this day the Directors of the Jeffersonville Ohio Canal Company assembled, pursuant to previous arrangements, in the town of Jeffersonville, and commenced the great work which has so long been the subject of anxious expectation, and almost unanimously demanded from the patriotism, no less than from the true interest of the western country. It is hardly necessary to say that the object of this